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NSC review completed

February 18, 1983

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

In responding to your letter of February 4, let me assure you at the outset that I take the views you expressed with such forthrightness and clarity seriously, addressing as they do matters of special concern to your government.

The United States provides security assistance to its friends and allies to assist them to live in security and peace. In the Eastern Mediterranean as elsewhere, we seek to establish and maintain a structure of peace that strengthens the ability of states in the region to deter aggression from without while promoting improved relations within the region. In considering levels of security assistance for Greece, my Administration will continue to be guided by this objective, which is consistent with the principles embodied in United States law to which you referred.

May I assure you, as well, that I regard a new agreement to define our security relationship to be in the interests of both our countries, and this is the aim of the negotiations in which we are currently engaged. In this context, the Administration will seek increased levels of security assistance for Greece above the levels of the current program.

The United States will earnestly pursue a satisfactory resolution to the outstanding issues in the negotiations. With good will and determination on both sides, I am confident we will complete them successfully.

Sincerely,

/s/ Ronald Reagan

His Excellency
Dr. Andreas Papandreu
Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic
Athens